

Bio for LCdr (Ret'd) the Rev'd Canon Robert Parker

Born in Sarnia, Ontario, in May of 1969, he moved around Southwestern Ontario until his family moved to Saskatchewan in 1982. He graduated from Outlook High School, Outlook, Saskatchewan, in 1987. He returned to Sarnia, Ontario, in 1989 and entered the Refrigeration trade as an Industrial Refrigeration Mechanic Apprentice, working at the Imperial Oil Refinery.

He joined the Canadian Forces in November 2002 as a Marine Engineering Systems Operator with the Naval Reserve Unit HMCS PREVOST in London, Ontario. In September of 2003, he entered Huron University College at the University of Western Ontario in the Master of Divinity Program. While completing his first year of that program, in April of 2004, he was granted a trade transfer to the Canadian Forces Chaplain Branch as a RESO Training Chaplain. He graduated in 2006 and was ordained to the Deaconate in May of that same year. He was appointed the Assistant Curate at St. George's Anglican Church in Sarnia, Ontario. That November, Robert was ordained an Anglican priest.

In 2007, after a summer on an extended RESO Phase Three, Robert became the Priest-in-Charge of St. Andrew's Tilbury and Church of the Ascension Comber.

In the spring of 2008, he transferred from the Reserve Force to the Regular Force and was posted to CFB Borden. While at Borden, he has served at the Canadian Forces School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (CFSEME), Canadian Forces School of Administration and Logistics (CFSAL), 16 Wing as the Wing Chaplain, Canadian Forces School of Aerospace Technology and Engineering (CFSATE) Air Command Academy (ACA) and 400 Tactical Helicopter Squadron and was Chapel Life Coordinator for Trinity Protestant Chapel.

In March of 2012, Padre Parker was posted to CFB Halifax and took up a position in the Fleet Office and prepared to deploy with several HMC Ships. In seven years of service in the Atlantic Fleet, he served on HMCS Preserver, Iroquois, St John's, Toronto, Athabaskan, Charlottetown and Halifax. He has deployed on four operations, twice on OP CARRIBE, OP ATRIMES and OP RENESSANCE.

In 2019, Robert was posted to 2 Service Battalion as the Senior Battalion Chaplain and as the Deputy Brigade Chaplain of 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group, Petawawa. In July of 2020, he was promoted to his present rank of Lieutenant Commander and assumed the position of Senior Garrison Chaplain at the 3 CDSB Edmonton Detachment Wainwright.

In 2024, he was posted to CFB Shilo as the Senior Base Chaplain and retired in April of 2025.

He has been awarded The General Campaign Star-Southwest Asia (GCS-SWA), Operational Service Medal-Humanitas (OSM-HUM), Operational Service Medal-Expeditionary (OSM-EXP), and the Canadian Forces Decoration with First Bar (CD1).

Canon Parker has been married to the Rt. Rev'd Rachael Parker, Bishop of Brandon, in Manitoba, for over 20 years and is the proud father to two boys, Robert William, aged 27, and Daniel John, aged 26.